Native Prairie UPDATE

VOLUME 11 - SPRING 2001

Welcome to the spring edition of the "Native Prairie Update". Like our readers, we are in full swing at this time of year, with the "field season" upon us. We are excited about the work that lies ahead, and our summer crew of both new and familiar faces.

Much of the work this summer will focus on the Missouri Coteau and Frenchman River areas of the province. We will be highlighting all of our stewardship programs - Native Prairie Stewardship, Streambank Stewardship, and Prairie Shores - a wetland stewardship program. For those of you who are already Native Prairie Stewards, you may find the information from the other programs of interest to you. Please let us know if you would like a copy of our riparian (streambank) and/or our wetland management guidebooks.

We have also included some posters that we worked on with the Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP). If you would like more copies of these, or if you have specific questions about the plants on the weed poster, please call. Other new publications include a PCAP fact sheet on Oil and Gas Development and a Native Plant Society booklet on acreage development and living. Both are available from us free of charge.

Finally, be sure to check out the coming events on the back page. We hope to see you at one or several of these events this summer. And be sure to drop by and see us at the Farm Progress Show in Regina this June if you're attending!

Lesley Hall, Manager
Native Prairie Stewardship Program

Deferred Grazing Rotation and Fencing Increases Production

By Stan Bartlett

When producer Garnet Hoffart of the Bengough district heard about the demonstration projects managed by the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation (SWCC), he knew he had found a way to help boost production while conserving a patch of rare mixed-grass native prairie.

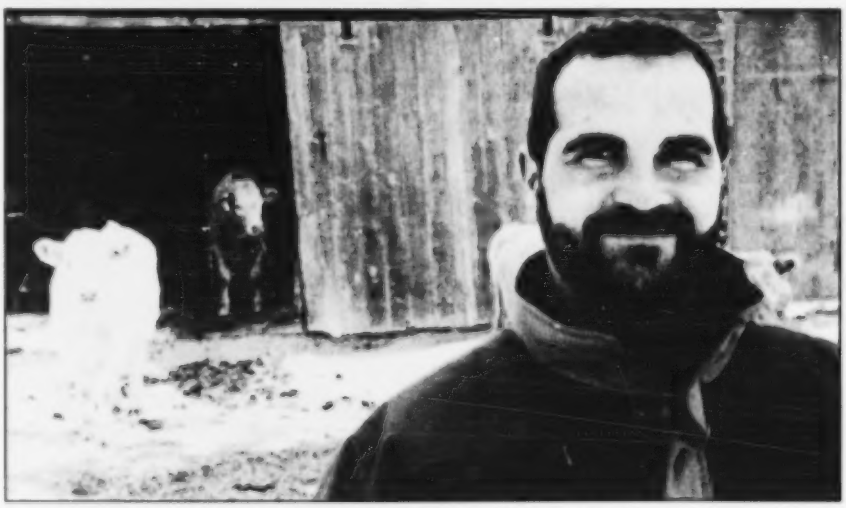
He runs a mixed-farm operation, raising 50 mixed breed cows and growing Durham wheat and some oats. He farms five quarters of land by his home, and 11 kilometres down the road, three quarters of pastureland that includes 60 acres of native prairie. He also works with his father Ralph, who lives on the home quarter, helping with his cattle and crops.

"Running over there for 90 acres of broke land was just out of my way," said Hoffart, who lives on the home quarter with his wife Rhonda and two toddlers.

"It wasn't very good land – it's marginal, hilly and washes out. It produces 10 bushels less per acre compared to the good land. There was no reason to keep farming it so I decided to seed it back to grass."

After learning about the benefits of the Native Prairie Stewardship Program, Hoffart became a voluntary steward with SWCC which operates the program with the assistance of the Prairie Conservation Action Plan. Last year, 136 new agreements were made on about 50,000 acres of prairie bringing the total amount of conserved prairie in Saskatchewan up to about 200,000 acres.

His project involved erecting about three kilometres of fence to enclose three sides of the quarter section and to cross fence 60 acres of the native prairie to restrict access.



Garnet Hoffart's second objective was to help save native prairie.

He found a 50-40-10 mixture of meadow brome, crested wheat and alfalfa to be the most effective.

By seeding some land back to tame forages and adding some cross fencing to allow early season grazing, Hoffart will be able to increase his herd significantly by 15 to 20 cow-calf pairs. It's also allowed him to defer grazing on the native prairie and to ensure its long term health.

"It's more profitable to grow grass and graze cattle than it is to be farming it," said Hoffart. "On the marginal land, I could see the erosion and everything that was happening to it. It wasn't holding its own by summer fallowing it every other year."

Hoffart's other objective in the project was to conserve some of the native prairie. He describes it as in excellent condition having never been grazed or fenced. The native prairie consists of various slender wheat grasses, spear grass and some invasive Kentucky blue grass and brome, he said.

"The only thing that's grazed the native prairie is antelope. It's knee-high native prairie. It was going to waste if it wasn't fenced and grazed properly. It's never been touched and that's rare," said Hoffart.

It's estimated there are only about 15 million acres of native prairie left in Saskatchewan out of an original 67 million acres. Most of that is concentrated in the southwest portion of the province. In areas where soils are particularly suited to crop production, an average of less that two per cent of the land remains as native prairie.

Grazing is an important tool for maintaining native prairie in a healthy state. It's believed that historically bison intensively grazed the prairie, but may not have returned to any particular area for any extended period of time. Under the 10-year agreement that Hoffart signed with SWCC, he's agreed to graze the native prairie after June 1 every year.

Grazing the 90 acres of tame hay before June 1st gives the native grass a chance to start up in the spring and summer and get established. "Who knows, maybe I'll be able to graze the tame hay again in the summer or fall if it's a wet enough year," said Hoffart.

Next year Hoffart will likely put in a dugout on the quarter section where the project is focused.

"It's a very, very good program," said Hoffart, who wishes there were more programs to help take marginal land out of production.

"Native prairie is part of the landscape. Guys broke up way too much – there are some horrible hills and I don't know how and why they broke it. Native prairie is excellent grazing and you don't have to worry about cattle ever bloating or getting sick off of native grass. It's also drought resistant."

Hoffart and his wife Rhonda, who works as a special care aid in Bengough, will encourage their children to conserve the native prairie. Neal Wilson, who coordinated the project for SWCC, was impressed with Hoffart's stewardship of the land.

"The pasture is in pretty good shape and he wants to keep it that way. His dad has also taken care of his native grass. Garnet is learning from his dad, and hopefully Garnet's children will learn from him down the road. They're good stewards," said Wilson.

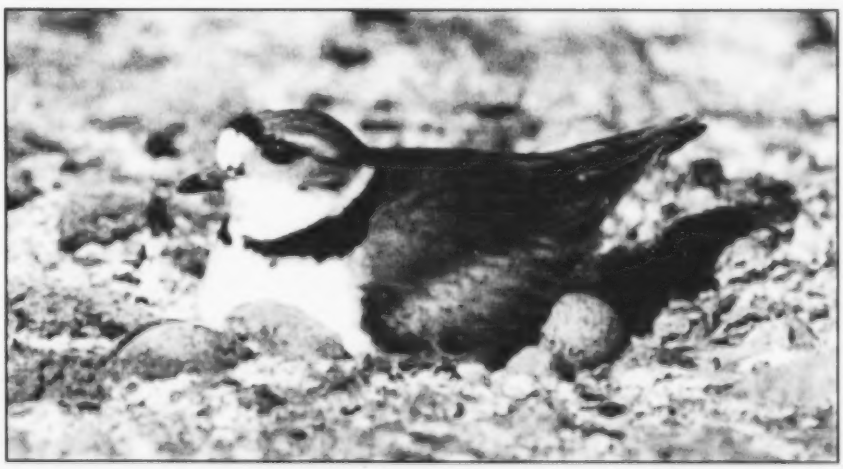
Piping Plovers Frequent Flyers to Saskatchewan

By Myrna MacDonald

Peep-lo! Peep-lo! The shores of Lake Diefenbaker may look deserted in the spring sunlight, but if you hear that whistling bird call, look more closely for the Piping Plover.

This tiny shorebird has a white breast, abdomen and rump with a black-tipped tail and distinctive black bands around its neck and across it forehead. Since their grey-brown wings, head and back naturally blend in with the colours of a sandy beach, Piping Plovers are often heard before they are seen.

Unfortunately, effective camouflage isn't the only reason why many Canadians have never seen a Piping Plover: it's also an endangered species. After being listed as



Piping Plover on nest.

threatened by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in 1978, the migratory bird's status was changed to endangered–the higher category of risk–in 1985.

In 1996, an international census located 5,913 adult birds around the world. That total included 1,384 birds found on the lake shores and saline wetlands of southern Saskatchewan–key breeding grounds for more than 20 per cent of the world's population. In fact, an earlier census taken in 1991 found the highest population of breeding pairs in all of North America on the shores of Lake Diefenbaker.

Next Stop: Saskatchewan

After spending their winters on the Atlantic shores in southern U.S. or along the Gulf of Mexico coastline, Piping Plovers arrive at Saskatchewan breeding sites between late April and early May. Besides Lake Diefenbaker, the birds settle in the drainage basins of Big Quill Lake, Chaplin Lake, Willowbunch Lake, and even as far north as Manitou Lake near North Battleford. Wetlands in the Missouri Coteau region are another important breeding habitat for the birds.

Males establish their territories on sand flats or saline mud flats around lakes, sloughs or reservoirs, then begin their mating rituals on the ground and in the air. Once a mate is found, the male scrapes out a shallow nest site in sand or gravel that's closely inspected by the female. After mating, the female lays two to four buff-coloured, black speckled eggs. Both parents take turns incubating the eggs which take about 34 days to hatch.

The chicks, which hatch fully-feathered, soon join their parents in the hunt for small insects and worms along the shoreline. The young birds grow rapidly, and by the end of July (or about 30 days after hatching), they're ready to migrate south.

Living Dangerously

In Saskatchewan, the Piping Plover is listed as an endangered species in the Wild Species at Risk Regulations, and is also protected on private, provincial and federal lands under the Wildlife Act.

Despite these measures, their productivity is limited in the province by factors such as a loss of habitat, land use practices, human and animal disturbances bad weather and climate changes.

The greatest threat comes from predators like Ring-billed Gulls, American Crows, Falcons, Northern Harries, Skunks, Raccoons, Foxes and Coyotes. Adult Piping Plovers often pretend to be injured to lure predators away from their nest, but if the deception doesn't work, all eggs are usually eaten.

The birds aren't alone in their fight for survival. For more than ten years, the Canadian Wildlife Service and provincial resource management departments in the Atlantic and Prairie regions have been working to protect Piping Plovers and their habitat, and to help adults successfully raise their young.

For example, researchers in Alberta and Saskatchewan are studying the use of nest enclosures that allow Piping Plovers to go in but keep predators out. After testing the enclosures at Manitou Lake and Lake Diefenbaker, more chicks are surviving to the fledgling stage.

Since nests and chicks are often trampled when cattle drink from sloughs, the prairie recovery team arranged for the installation of extensive fencing on four wetlands basins to keep livestock away from the shoreline nesting habitat.

Teams members are also consulting with Sask Water Corporation to find ways to minimize variable water levels at Lake Diefenbaker–a problem that drastically affected Piping Plover habitat throughout the 1990s. When water levels rose rapidly, the birds' nests were flooded before their eggs hatched. The situation also reduced their beach feeding area and made them more vulnerable to predators.

Other obstacles are more difficult to overcome. In 1998, heavy rains and cool temperatures caused the death of a number of chicks at Willowbunch and Big Quill Lakes. As well, climate warming on the prairies could potentially cause droughts which would reduce habitat–especially in the Missouri Coteau region where breeding sites are along small sloughs.

Give Piping Plover a Hand

How can you help to protect Piping Plovers? If you're a landowner, maintaining natural habitat around wetlands and reducing disturbances in these areas between late April and early August will preserve breeding habitat.

Another option is granting a conservation easement on parts of your land that are used by Piping Plovers. This allows you to retain property ownership while ensuring that the area is conserved in its natural state.

But most importantly, find out more about Piping Plovers: read up on their habitat needs, learn how to identify the species, or join conservation organizations. Through more awareness, landowners, livestock producers, government agencies, conservation organizations, bird watchers and recreationists can work more effectively to protect Piping Plovers and their habitat.

Roadside Project Restores the Native Prairie at Rouleau

By Stan Bartlett

A strip of right-of-way along the highway seven kilometres northwest of Rouleau shelters some of the only native prairie remaining in the heavy clay soil region around Regina and Moose Jaw.

In 1997, Lesley Hall and staff at the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation (SWCC) rolled up their sleeves and staked off a 550-metre patch of rare native prairie for restoration. With only 500 acres of native prairie out of over 1.1 million acres left in the Regina plains soil zone, it's a precious remnant.

"The remaining native prairie is very valuable," said Hall, and remants can often be found in ditches and cemeteries.

"Even though it's a very small piece of native prairie, it's some of the only prairie left in the Regina City soil zone. It's important to try and preserve what we have left," said Hall.

The roadside restoration project site lies between Highway 39 and the CP rail line and contains one large and several smaller patches of native prairie.

"It's been an awful lot of work – we didn't realize the amount of work it would take to restore this small area," said Hall. "It's amazing."

In 1997 and 1998, ten samples were taken out of each non-native area to get a description of the vegetation. From 1997 to 1999 exotic species in the area were spot treated with the herbicide Roundup.

In July 1999, the area dominated by smooth brome grass was mowed and plant litter removed. It was then treated with Roundup killing almost 100 per cent of the brome, an extremely persistent and very competitive grass.

This past summer, the patch was cultivated, weeds were sprayed with herbicide, and some areas burned. In the fall, 37 different native grass and flower species were seeded.

Rare seeds from the Rouleau roadside were painstakingly collected for SWCC's urban prairie nursery in Regina. In total, 89 species have been collected from the Regina plains soil zone. The seeds are used to start seedlings at the Shand Power Station greenhouse in Estevan which eventually helps restore prairie throughout Saskatchewan.

The ditch construction, road salt application and highway maintenance requirements make a right-of-way an unusual site to restore native prairie, said Hall. The project, which is expected to continue for several years, was not without it's challenges.

Two seed mixtures were tried – one for the moister area at the bottom and one for the less stable, drier slope of the right-of-way. The moist area was seeded with predominantly northern and western wheatgrasses, western porcupine grass and green needle grass. The slope took a mixture of June grass and prairie muhly, as well as wheatgrasses to form a sod that would resist erosion.

"We'll see how it works. Maybe all the plants will blend together. Maybe we'll have to experiment with different seed mixtures," she said.

Native species along roadsides are likely better adapted to Saskatchewan's harsh winters and periodic drought, and form more diverse and stable communities than non-native species. Native species have deep root systems that stabilize the soil and help prevent erosion. They are also likely less attractive to deer than the alfalfa-brome plantings that commonly edge highways. The tall grasses provide nesting cover and food for wildlife, and act as snow catches, minimizing drifts.

Staff at Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation, a partner in the project, are watching the Rouleau right-of-way project with interest, said Paul Hunt, operations standards engineer for the province.

"If they can establish a viable native grassland ecosystem that's economical for us to put in our right-of-ways, we would likely go that way," said Hunt. "That's because native grass doesn't grow as fast or as high so they're easier to maintain."

By adding plants and blossoms along some of Saskatchewan's 27,000 kilometres of roads, native prairie could also provide added texture, variety, colour and beauty to the landscape.

"For many travelers, all they see of Saskatchewan is the view from the highway. Saskatchewan's prairie makes it distinct and we should be proud of what we have and show it off. There's a lot of beautiful plants and flowers," concludes Hall.

Jennifer Lohmeyer, SWCC, with Ed Finch seeding the ditch at Rouleau, Saskatchewan

Protecting Species at Risk: What's the Law?

By Myrna MacDonald

Saskatchewan legislation was recently amended to enhance species at risk protection, while in Canada, the federal government hopes its proposed Species at Risk Act will become law in 2001.

How will these changes affect you? Earl Wiltse, provincial endangered species specialist at Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management, provides some answers.

Q. What legislation protects species at risk in Saskatchewan?

In 1997, we amended The Wildlife Act to include regulations that broadened the act's mandate to designate and protect 15 plant and animal species at risk. The provincial government now has legislative power to take legal steps against individuals who purposefully harm species at risk or their habitats.

In 2001, we will amend the act further to include more species at risk, and to protect limited habitat sites. For example, this allows us to protect an endangered bird's nesting sites, or native prairie patches where a threatened plant species grows.

Q. Is that Saskatchewan's only provision for habitat protection?

Habitat protection is addressed further in two provincial acts: The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act and The Conservation Easement Act. The first focuses on habitat protection on Crown lands. The second act is relevant to private landowners who have applied a conservation easement on parts of their land for habitat protection.

Q. How does Saskatchewan protect species at risk and their habitat?

We believe in developing multi-species recovery plans to help implement an ecosystem approach to wild species conservation. An ecosystem approach is more efficient and effective to conserve, enhance and protect species and their habitats rather than focusing on a specific species. Our concern: if you focus on the recovery of one species, your efforts may conflict with habitat protection and recovery efforts of another species. Still, some species have specific needs and must be looked at on a finer scale to successfully integrate their recovery objectives with protection goals of other species.

Threatened Sprague's Pipit

Q. Why does Saskatchewan include "vulnerable" as well as "special concern" in their species at risk categories?

We wanted the ability to protect species that aren't deemed endangered or threatened but have certain characteristics (like specialized habitat or limited geographical range) which can make them sensitive to human activities. This allows us to identify management actions and use them if needed to prevent these species from becoming endangered or threatened. For example, it may be okay to harvest these species at certain times, but the provincial government needs to regulate the harvest.

Q. Is Saskatchewan part of a national approach to species at risk protection?

In 1996, Saskatchewan joined the federal government, and other provinces and territories in signing the national Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk. The accord establishes a minimum standard for species at risk protection across Canada. It lays out guiding principles for establishing complementary legislation and programs for protecting, designating and listing species. It also obligates everyone who signed the accord to work together so no species, "falls through the cracks."

The accord is an important part of the national strategy which includes the proposed Species at Risk Act(SARA) .

Q How will Saskatchewan's legislation work in conjunction with SARA?

Saskatchewan's legislation protects species at risk on provincial land, while federal legislation will do the same on national lands within Saskatchewan. The federal government takes the lead responsibility for migratory species and fish.

Q. If all provinces and territories have species at risk legislation, why do we need a federal act?

Right now, Canada has no legislation addressing species at risk protection. Provincial and territorial legislation is essential, but we need a national framework. The proposed act also gives Canada a "safety net" for protecting critical habitat, allowing the federal government to go further. For example, if a province or territory isn't adequately protecting habitat of a species at risk and all options for voluntary stewardship have been exhausted, the federal government can take action to protect critical habitat on provincial, territorial or private lands

Q. But doesn't SARA focus on protecting species at risk? Why is habitat protection included in the act?

Because the loss or degradation of habitat is the primary reason why there are species at risk in Canada. Habitat is becoming more fragmented, and that causes problems for plant and wildlife species especially for less mobile species. They become

isolated on their "patches" of habitat and eventually lose their overall, genetic vigor.

Q. Won't stronger legislation for habitat protection only discourage people from becoming voluntary stewards?
It's true, stronger legislation doesn't necessarily ensure compliance, and we don't want it to deter anyone from participating in voluntary stewardship programs. We still need to rely on co-operative ways of protecting species at risk and their habitat— an approach that has worked very well in Saskatchewan and in Canada. Nationally, that approach will be supported by the federal Habitat Stewardship Program which funds Canadians' voluntary stewardship efforts.

Q. What if habitat protection prohibits land use? Will landowners or resource users be compensated ?
Until now, we've relied on voluntary agreements with private landowners or resource companies to address habitat protection. Shutting down all activities in a particular area isn't necessary in most cases. But if the species' habitat is localized and needs protection, it may mean all activities must be stopped. In these cases, provincial and federal governments may have to provide incentives for landowners, such as tax incentives on native grasslands or land acquisitions. SARA will recognize real sacrifices made for conservation, but details are still being discussed.

Q. How will Aboriginal people be involved in the new federal legislation?
Aboriginal traditional knowledge will be integrated into species assessments conducted by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). The committee now has an Aboriginal member and a subcommittee that focuses on traditional knowledge of wildlife species.

Q. I'm concerned about the future of Whooping Cranes, but why should I care about protecting native plants or bugs?
More "glamorous" species like Whooping Cranes do receive more public attention than the Hairy Prairie Clover. But as humans, it's important to remember that we're all part of the same equation. A wide variety of species is a real indicator of our habitats' health. That's why we need to do more provincially and federally – to increase public awareness and education about the protection of all species at risk.

For more information contact Earl Wiltse, Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management , 3211 Albert St. Regina, Sk S4S 5W6. Ph (306) 787-2889.

Conservation Cover Program

Money for perennial cover

A new Conservation Cover Program will provide farm operators with $15 per acre to seed land in annual crop production to perennial cover.

The Program is a four-year, $26-million provincial government program. In 2001, $5 million will be made available for farm operators to convert a minimum, of five acres and up to a maximum of 50 acres to perennial cover. The deadline for applying for the 200l program year is Oct. 31.

"The program will contribute about one-quarter of the cost of converting land from crop production to perennial cover," Deputy Premier and Agriculture and Food Minister Serby said.

"Our goal is to promote good land stewardship and help address issues related to soil conservation, protecting water resources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and conserving Saskatchewan's biodiversity.

The program will also support increased technical and extension services to help those establishing perennial cover, Serby said.

Who can apply for the payment?

Saskatchewan residents who are 18 years of age or older and are farm operators may apply for the payment. Crown land lessees may also apply to convert acres on cultivated Crown lease lands.

What type of land is eligible for a program payment?

All soil types are eligible under the program. This allows the farmer to select those lands on which to establish perennial cover, depending upon management objectives. However, the land for which program benefits are requested in the application must have been in annual cropping or summerfallow in the previous year.

Are there restrictions on land use for lands converted with program assistance?

No. Farm operators can best decide how to utilize the lands that have been converted to perennial cover. Most of these lands will likely be used for pastures or haying.

Where are application forms available?

Program application forms are available from Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Rural Service Centres, Rural Municipality Offices and on the department's internet web site:www.agr.gov.sk.ca/CCP

All About Pasture Sage

By Ross McDonald

"I turned my tail to the wind and the ol'Double Diamond and disappeared into the sage ". These words sung by Ian Tyson, conjure up days of old, when cowboys rode the vast ranges filled with sagebrush. Just as range cowboys exist today, so do many species of sage. Pasture sage and fringed sagebrush are two of the common names used to identify *Artemisia frigida*, a perennial, native, cool season sage species found throughout Saskatchewan's native prairie ecosystems.

Largely known for its aromatic essence when the leaves are crushed under hoof or tires, pasture sage is often misidentified as an exotic weed. Not only has pasture sage been growing since the days of the giant bison and antelope herds, this native range plant can be a very useful indicator for you as a native prairie steward.

Pasture sage is a low growing sub-shrub with small divided leaves which appear fringed (thus the name fringed sage). The stems of the plant are branched and almost woody at the base but become softer further up the stem. Both the leaves and stems of the plant are covered with small white hairs, giving the entire plant a silvery-green appearance as well as a soft, hairy feel. This native species reproduces from seeds produced in late summer. The seed stalks of pasture sage extend up from the stems and the yellow flowers produce small balls of seed. These seed balls hang from the stalks and can be easily stripped off with your thumb and forefinger, releasing the characteristic sage smell. The roots of pasture sage are mat forming, and spread below the soil surface.

When we summarize these plant growth characteristics, pasture sage's role as an aid in range management becomes more clear. It is a low growing plant which reproduces from seed and thrives under conditions where there is little competition for soil, nutrients and sunlight. As you may have guessed, these conditions exist when other native prairie plants, especially grasses, are over-used and then decrease in the pasture composition. Thus, a large percentage of pasture sage in your prairie is an indicator of over-utilization. Cattle, bison or horses select grass species and tend to avoid pasture sage. When pasture species are continually over-utilized, the best native forage grasses decrease in number allowing ungrazed species such as pasture sage to dominate.

Once pasture sage begins to dominate your prairie, it is difficult for more desirable plant species to regain their position in your prairie ecosystem. However, completely removing grazing from the system is not the remedy. Changing the timing of your grazing will aid in restoring a more sustainable balance of plant species within your pasture, as well as increase your carrying capacity. Grazing your native prairie later in the summer will allow the remaining grass species to regain some badly needed energy for survival and reproduction. Herbicide application is another possible alternative for pasture sage control. However, when applying chemical to the system you will likely remove some beneficial or endangered plants thus losing more than you gain. Using sheep and/or goats in your grazing management plan will aid in maintaining and improving your native prairie. Pasture sage is a good source of nutrients for sheep and goats. It is also an important winter feed source for elk and deer as it retains a high feed value throughout the winter.

In essence, pasture sage is a symptom of over-utilization rather than the problem itself. *Artemisia frigida* is an important plant in Saskatchewan's native prairie and can be considered an aid in the management of this dynamic and sustainable resource.

A Canada Goose finds nesting conditions superb at the Regina Plain Native Nursery in Regina's Riverside Memorial Park. Lesley and Jennifer said the mother goose is very protective of her eggs and will not allow any weeding around her nest.

Coming Events

June 16, 2001
NATIVE PRAIRIE SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN TOURS:
Native Plant Gardens in Regina - An opportunity to visit a variety of native plant gardens in Regina and discuss the opportunities and challenges of using native plants in an urban setting.
For more information contact Karyn Scalise at (306) 352-0472

Begins- June 17, 2001
NATIVE PRAIRIE APPRECIATION WEEK
Prairie Conservation Action Plan and partners. *For more information contact Karyn Scalise at (306) 352-0472*

Riemer Wins Conservation Award

At the Sixth Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference held in Winnipeg, Manitoba earlier this year, Greg Riemer of the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation received the coveted "Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Award" for his outstanding work in the field of prairie conservation over the past twenty years. He was nominated for this award by his peers at the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association. These awards are presented every three years to outstanding individuals from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to conservation and have initiated action resulting in positive impacts on the environment.

Greg has recently been seconded to the Saskatchewan Environment Resource Management Department where he will be working in the Fish and Wildlife Branch.

Greg Riemer, Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation

Tom Harrison has been appointed Acting Manager, Agriculture Services, in Greg's absence.

Coming Events *continued*

June 21 to 23, 2001
DISCOVERING THE FRENCHMAN
This summer meeting and tour will be held during Prairie Appreciation Week and will focus on Grasslands National Park. The event is jointly organized by the Society for Rangeland Management, the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan and the Prairie Conservation Action Plan.
For more information contact Andy Hammermeister at (306) 668-3940.

June 22 to 25, 2001
BIRD BLITZ AT THE OLD-MAN-ON-HIS BACK PRAIRIE AND HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREA.
The Nature Conservancy of Canada partnered with Nature Saskatchewan and the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan to conduct a Botany Blitz on the Old-Man-On-His Back areas in southwest Saskatchewan . *For more information contact Sue Michalsky at (306) 295-3696*

July 7, 2001
MATADOR RANCH TOUR
This ranch is recognized as one of the most beautiful areas of native prairie remaining in the province. The tour will involve a series of hikes through coulees and over hills to explore a diverse range of plants found in the area.
For more information contact Andy Hammermister at (306) 668-3940.

July 14, 2001
NATIVE PLANT GARDENS AND PARKS IN SASKATOON TOUR
This tour will explore a variety of gardens and possibly parks in Saskatoon and area. Participants will have an opportunity to meet with the gardeners and land managers to get helpful ideas about growing native plants in the city. *For more information contact Andy Hammermeister at (306) 668-3940.*

July 21, 2001
PRINCE ALBERT NATIONAL PARK TOUR
The tour will include opportunities to discuss the role of fire in the boreal forest ecosystem.
For more information contact Andy Hammermeister at (306) 668-3940.

Share Your Ideas . . .

Anyone with story ideas or coming events is welcome to share them with us at:

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- Endangered Species Recovery Fund

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